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shell was shown and commended by Dr. Britton. Also a sedge *Reimaria maritima*, only lately found in Florida at Lake Worth, but having a wide distribution elsewhere.

The announced paper for the meeting was read by Miss Alexandrina Taylor, entitled 'A comparative Study of the superficial Periderm in a number of species of *Salix*,' and was well illustrated by diagrams. In most text-books the work of Sanio is taken as authority on the development of superficial periderm. From the large number of species of the genus *Salix*, he selected one as a type. The many variations from this type pointed to the possibility that, by extending the study over a greater number of species than those studied by Sanio, one might be found which might more justly be called the type of the genus. This was the object of the above study.

W. A. BASTEDO,

Recording Secretary pro tem.

WEST VIRGINIA ACADEMY OF SCIENCE.

THE fifteenth regular meeting of the Academy, which was also the first annual session of the organization, was held at Morgantown, March 24, 1896.

The following officers were reëlected :

President, Dr. A. D. Hopkins; Vice-President, Prof. Thos. C. Miller; Secretary and Treasurer, Mr. W. Earl Rumsey; Corresponding Secretary, Prof. B. H. Hite.

The President, in referring to the history and first year's work of the Academy, stated that the Academy was organized on February 25, 1895, with sixteen active members and twelve associate members, representing chemistry, physics, geology, biology, entomology, mechanical and civil engineering, zoölogy, medicine, agriculture, horticulture and general science.

Fourteen regular sessions of the Academy have been held, twenty-eight communications have been presented, and three important resolutions have been passed. The communications referred to the following subjects and branches of science :

Chemistry, 1; psychology, 3; electricity, 2; geology, 1; horticulture, 2; bibliography, 2; agriculture, 2; entomology, 2; mechanical engineering, 3; ornithology, 2; general science, 1;

anthropology, 1; botany, 1; civil engineering, 1; hydrography, 2; forestry, 2.

The resolutions were with reference to the publication of topographic maps, waterways and forest preservation.

The only communication presented at this meeting besides the President's remarks was by Prof. L. C. Corbett, who announced the completion and successful test of an improved *auxanometer*, which was exhibited at work. In explanation Prof. Corbett stated that the chief features of the machine are that all parts of the instrument are mounted upon a rigid base; the usual system of proportionate pulleys has been replaced by a simple lever of the first type, *i. e.*, where the fulcrum is between the power and the weight. The record is made in ink upon a paper-bound cylinder. The rate of the cylinder is retarded to a single revolution in 24 hours. The record of each day, therefore, appears as a platted curve rather than in the form of a spiral, as is the case with recording drums making a revolution each hour. The mode of attaching the *auxanometer* to the plant has been improved upon by substituting wooden forceps with relatively broad faces for the usual bent pin; this is again connected with the recording arm of the instrument by a fine wire instead of the usual cord. In this way the objectionable features of the system of weighted cords and pulleys are overcome.

W. EARL RUMSEY,

Secretary.

NEW BOOKS.

A Compendium of General Botany: MAX WESTERMAIER, translated by ALBERT SCHNEIDER. New York, John Wiley & Sons. Pp. x+299.

Natural History of Selborne: GILBERT WHITE, with an Introduction by EDWARD S. MORSE. Boston and London, Ginn & Co., 1896. Pp. xii+251.

The Psychology of Attention: TH. RIBOT, third revised edition. Chicago and London, Open Court Publishing Co. 1896. Pp. xii+120.

An Examination of Weismannism: GEORGE JOHN ROMANES. Chicago and London, The Open Court Publishing Co. Pp. ix+221. 35 cts.